



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

DEC 05 2008

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
South Sacramento County Streams Project,
Unionhouse Creek Channel Upgrades, California

I have reviewed and evaluated the information presented in this Environmental Assessment/ Initial Study (EA/IS) prepared for the South Sacramento County Streams Project, Unionhouse Creek Channel Upgrades. The proposed action would raise the level of flood protection in the project area to a point that it can safely contain a flood event with less than a 1% chance of occurrence in any given year and ensure that the area meets the minimum Federal Emergency Management Agency level of flood protection.

During this review, the possible consequences of the work described in the EA/IS have been studied with consideration given to environmental, socioeconomic, cultural, and engineering feasibility. I also have considered the views of other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. The environmental effects have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), California Department of Fish and Game, and Central Valley Flood Protection Board.


Consultation with USFWS on Federally-listed species has been carried out. The Corps has consulted with USFWS to amend the existing Biological Opinion to state that the project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the giant garter snake, the vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The Corps will compensate for the permanent loss of 7.62 acres of potential giant garter snake upland habitat through the purchase of credits at a USFWS approved mitigation bank at a 3:1 ratio.

Cultural resources surveys have been conducted and no known cultural resources would be affected by the project. The Corps has received concurrence from SHPO that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties. No significant impacts on resources would result from the project. Best management practices, avoidance protocols and minimization measures would be utilized during construction to reduce effects related to air quality, sensitive biological resources, cultural resources, noise, water quality and utility systems.

Based on my review of the EA/IS and my knowledge of the project area, I have determined that the proposed Unionhouse Creek Channel Upgrades, including access routes and staging area, would have no significant, long-term effects on environmental or cultural resources. Based on these considerations, I am convinced that there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement. Therefore, an EA and Finding of No Significant Impact provide adequate environmental documentation for the proposed action.

4 Dec 08

Date


Thomas C. Chapman, P.E.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer